

Purpose and Need
Lower PV Tricktank Pipeline
Pleasant Valley Ranger District

Date: May 15th 2018

ID Team Leader: Kelly Bedson

Project type: Structural Range Improvement

Target start date: June 2018

Target finish date: June 2018

Expected NEPA Documentation Type: Categorical Exclusion (DM required)

If Categorical Exclusion, select Category: 32.2 (9) Implement or modify minor management practices for range allotment when no allotment mgmt plan

Project location: This project is located on the Pleasant Valley grazing allotment of the Pleasant Valley Ranger District, east of Young, AZ. The legal location of the project is Township 9N, Range 14E, and Section 16.

Vegetation type: Vegetation in this area consists of pinyon-juniper grassland with heavy components of scrub oak and manzanita

Existing Condition

The Pleasant Valley allotment is grazed in a rest-rotation system. With the current dry conditions, earthen stock tanks have dried up and the permittee has been hauling water. In order to provide adequate distribution of livestock additional water sources are needed in the Oak and Northeast Pastures.

Desired Conditions

As described in the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan on replacement page 42 standards and guidelines state that a minimum of four waters per section and one water per section in big game key areas should be provided. In management area 5D livestock should be managed at Level D. Level D management for livestock includes:

Management seeks to optimize production and utilization of forage allocated for livestock use consistent with maintaining the environment and providing the multiple use of the range. From all existing range and livestock management technology, practices may be selected and used to develop cost effective methods for achieving improved forage supplies and uniform livestock distribution and forage use... Cultural practices may be combined with fencing and water developments to implement complex grazing systems and management methods.

The Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan states that rangeland in less than satisfactory condition will be treated with improved grazing management along with the installation of structural and non-structural improvements (page 195). Also to develop structural improvements in association with allotment management plans (AMP) to maintain utilization at levels appropriate with management intensity and AMP objectives.

Current Management Direction

An AMP for the Pleasant Valley grazing allotment was signed in 1984. This management plan indicated that water distribution is an ongoing issue on the allotment. With the current drought conditions, additional water is needed to accommodate the dry dirt stock tanks and adequately distribute cattle throughout the pastures to make best use of available forage.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to evenly distribute cattle while on in the Oak and Northwest pastures of the Pleasant Valley grazing allotment and provide the livestock with additional reliable water sources for when dirt stock tanks go dry. The need is to comply with direction found in the Tonto National Land and Resource Management Plan and to move the allotment towards our desired conditions.

Proposed Action

It's proposed to add a 1" steel pipeline that will be laid above ground by hand from an existing well on private property. Water will be pumped uphill by a solar pump installed at the apex of the hill. Water will then gravity feed through 1" polyplastic pipeline to the existing PV Tricktank storage container. The total pipeline will be 0.58 miles in length. Short sections of pipeline will feed to troughs on both the Oak and Northwest sides of the pasture fence (immediately adjacent to the existing storage).

It is also proposed to drill a well at the tricktank location in the future. This well would be within 20ft of the existing storage container and is an already heavily disturbed area. By providing the opportunity for a well, it would mean the pipeline is not dependent on the private well indefinitely.

Design Features

The pipeline will be laid above ground and will follow an existing pasture fence. It will be concealed by brush for the majority of the distance. The troughs will be required to have a usable wildlife escape ramp and a functioning float.

Implementation Timeline:

Implementation is expected to begin summer 2018.

Please send your questions, concerns, or mitigations to:

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